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2015

Preparatory Optometry Program 2014-2015

Nova Southeastern University

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COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY/
FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Preparatory Optometry Program

HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION • 2014–2015



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY



DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The College of Optometry joins the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to provide a unique opportunity for students interested in pursuing the optometric profession. The Preparatory Optometry Program (POP) is designed to evaluate and demonstrate the potential academic ability of a student to successfully complete the professional optometry program. POP students will learn side-by-side with professional optometry and other health professional students at Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division. This experience will provide POP students with a true understanding of the challenges and demands of a professional curriculum while they study the basic medical sciences. A foundation in the basic medical sciences is essential for developing into an outstanding optometric physician in the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

College of Optometry

To prepare, educate, and train optometric physicians to practice at the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism, and to provide a multidisciplinary environment that encourages and supports scholarship, community service, and lifelong learning.

Goal 1—Students will graduate from the program with the necessary skills and knowledge to practice optometry.

Goal 2—Students and faculty members will participate in scholarly activities.

Goal 3—Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry will assist optometrists in their ongoing pursuit to improve their skills and knowledge base.

Goal 4—Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry will contribute, through education and service, to the greater communities in which our faculty members, students, and graduates participate.

AGREEMENT

Students who accept the invitation to enter the POP will be required to sign a learning agreement stating that they clearly understand the requirements, rules, and details of this unique program.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The Health Professions Division (HPD) occupies 21 acres and 900,000 square feet of space on the Nova Southeastern University main campus. The HPD's seven colleges are based in a five-story administration building, with the upper floors consisting of the colleges' headquarters, division administration, and faculty offices. The first floor is student related, devoted to the Office of Admissions, the Office of Student Financial Assistance, and a cafeteria.

Just north of the administration building is the assembly building. This consists of a 500-seat auditorium; a 250-seat auditorium; and eight 126-seat, amphitheater-style classrooms. Connected to this is a three-story library/laboratory building. On the first floor is a 20,000-square-foot library with a 100-seat classroom devoted to cardiac teaching using HARVEY, a computerized heart-sound mannequin that duplicates the signs and symptoms of most normal and abnormal heart conditions. Patient simulation training rooms and a 50-station computer laboratory for student use are also on the first floor. The second and third floors house laboratories, a student lounge, and a research area.

Just north of the library/laboratory building is the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center building with facilities for primary health care, rehabilitative services, and primary and secondary eye care. A three-story building houses the College of Dental Medicine's educational facilities and clinics. Just south of the dental building, the university has a building with a 300-seat auditorium and study rooms for students. Behind these structures is an 1,800-vehicle parking garage, readily accessible to the university community.

CURRICULUM

Students in the Preparatory Optometry Program are required to take both OPT (prefix) basic science and (Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences) undergraduate courses, as shown below. Students must enroll in the Applied Professional Studies major at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

PREPARATORY OPTOMETRY PROGRAM (POP) COURSE SCHEDULE

FALL TERM

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
OPT 1011	Histology and Embryology	1
OPTC 1134	Gross Anatomy/Anatomy of Head and Neck	4
OPT 1233	Biochemistry	3
OPT 1323	Microbiology	3
Farquhar	Math ^{1, 2}	3
Total		14

WINTER TERM

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
OPTC 2023	General Neuroanatomy	2.5
OPT 2422	Ocular Anatomy	3
OPTC 2144	General Physiology	4
PHYS 3300	Fundamentals of Optics ³	3
Farquhar	Writing Electives or Speech ^{1, 4}	3
Total		15.5

SUMMER TERM

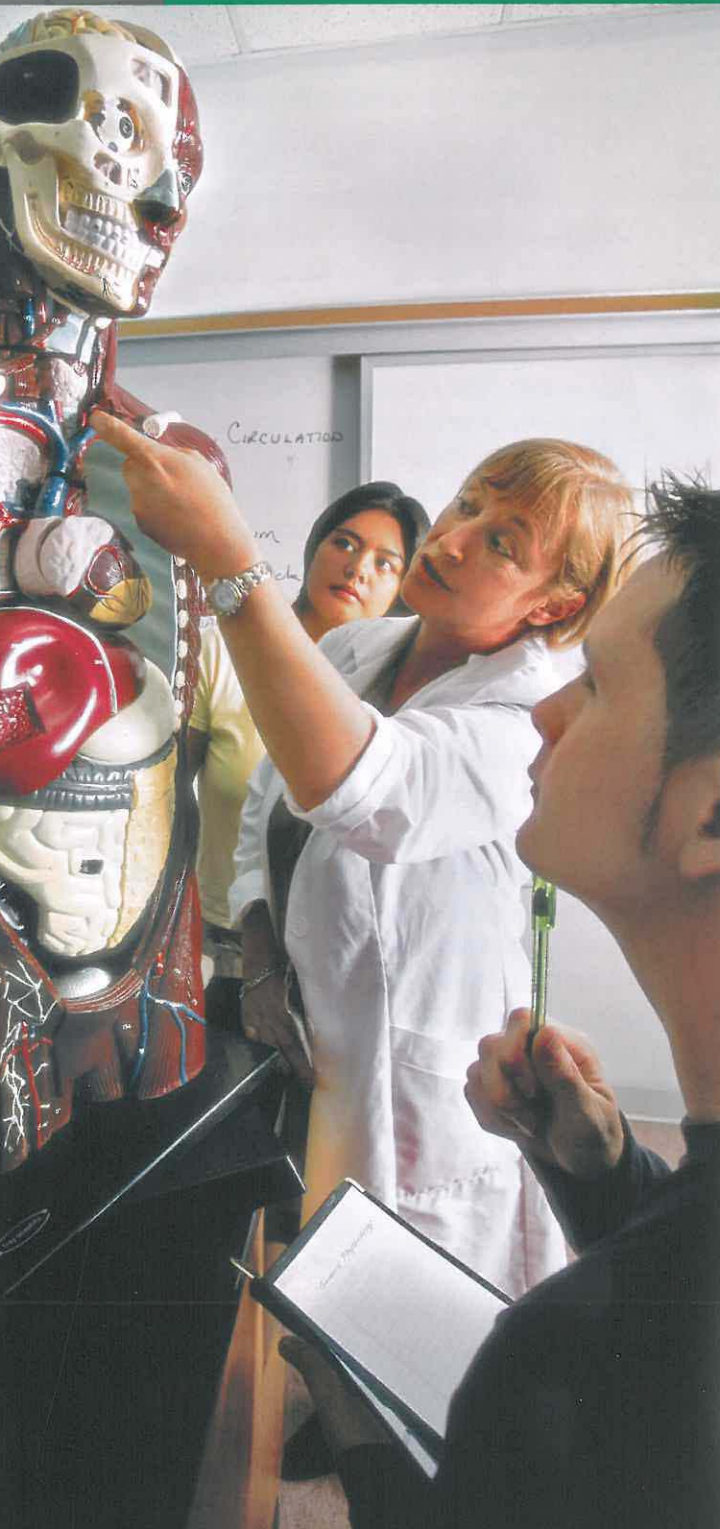
(for candidates not admitted into O.D. Program)⁵

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
BIOL 4901	Capstone ⁶ (APS Capstone Course)	3

90 credits required for admission into the POP

29.5–32.5 credits required for a Bachelor of Science in
Applied Professional Studies

- ¹ The schedule for basic sciences will take precedence over undergraduate courses (day, online, evening).
- ² The math courses permitted are Math 1030: Intermediate Algebra, Math 1200: Precalculus Algebra, or Math 1250: Trigonometry. Other math courses may be substituted with permission of the College of Optometry assistant dean for student affairs.
- ³ This course is taken through the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.
- ⁴ The writing or speech electives permitted are Writ 3150: Business Writing, Writ 3160: Scientific and Technical Writing, Spch 3120: Speech Communication for the Professions, or Spch 1010: Public Speaking. Other courses may be substituted with permission of the College of Optometry assistant dean for student affairs.
- ⁵ Students who have passed all courses, but do not meet the requirements for acceptance into the optometry program, have the option of earning a B.S. in Applied Professional Studies by enrolling in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and successfully completing 4–6 more credit hours. A total of 30 credits must be earned at NSU to qualify for this degree.
- ⁶ The APS capstone course in biological and physical sciences must be scheduled with the student's undergraduate adviser from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

If a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 80 or above is attained for the OPT (prefix) basic science courses and 2.8 GPA (B-) or above is attained for Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate courses, the student will be admitted into the traditional four-year optometry program the following fall term. Having successfully completed the Preparatory Optometry Program, the student must file an updated application for Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry and pay the \$50 application fee. The student will not be required to retake the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) or resubmit an OptomCAS application at that time.

Students who attain a grade of 90 or above in any OPT (prefix) basic science course will **not** be required to repeat the course after being admitted into the professional O.D. program. Credit for any courses with 90 or above will be applied to the professional school degree program, but grades will not be brought forward into the professional school GPA. A College of Optometry internal GPA will be calculated for all former POP students that earned these credits for use with externship rankings and BSK eligibility only.

Students in the POP program must follow all university policies; however, they will not fall under the professional degree student handbook, except for dress code and attendance requirements. No retests will be permitted in the POP program. **Failure of any course will result in a mandated dismissal from the program. (Failure is defined as any grade below 70 percent).** All grievances and appeals will be referred to the College of Optometry assistant dean for student affairs who will consult with the College of Optometry dean for final action. All decisions by the deans will be final. The number of students to be considered each year for the POP program will depend on the candidates and the space available in the HPD classrooms.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

If the cumulative average criterion of 80 (*B-*) is not met, students will have the option of earning a Bachelor of Science in Applied Professional Studies (APS) from NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences by successfully completing an additional course (a 3-credit APS capstone course in biological and physical sciences). POP students unsuccessful in meeting the criteria for acceptance into the professional program will be responsible for any additional tuition and fees if they choose to complete the B.S. in Applied Professional Studies at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.



POP students who do not meet the program criteria for acceptance to the College of Optometry may resubmit an application through the regular competitive admissions process (www.optomcas.org). It is strongly recommended that any student in this situation also apply to other optometric institutions.

This brochure is for information purposes only and does not represent a contract. Information contained herein is subject to change at any time by administrative decision on the direction of the board of trustees.



ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Potential candidates for the preparatory program will be recommended to the dean by the assistant dean for student affairs and/or the Committee on Admissions. In order to qualify for the preparatory program, students must have applied for the professional program (www.optomcas.org), met the prerequisite course criteria for the O.D. degree (<http://optometry.nova.edu/od/admissions/index.html>), and have taken the OAT examination (<https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>). All candidates must be interviewed either as part of the professional program application or for acceptance to the Preparatory Optometry Program.

In addition to these requirements, POP students must complete the requirements in the Applied Professional Studies track for the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

To be eligible for the applied professional studies major, students must

1. have completed a minimum of 45 credits prior to applying to the applied professional studies major
2. have completed an 18-credit concentration before applying to the applied professional studies major



Applicants to the applied professional studies major must complete and provide a portfolio containing the following documents:

- 1.** a letter of intent in which the student
 - a.** identifies his or her career goals
 - b.** identifies his or her prior coursework and approved prior learning experiences that comprise concentration I
 - c.** provides a rationale for considering concentration I as a coherent body of work
 - d.** identifies concentration II and explains how concentrations I and II integrate into an academic program focused on his or her career goals
- 2.** copies of transcripts with the 18-credits that comprise concentration I highlighted
- 3.** at least one document—such as an academic paper, project, work product, letter of recommendation, written review of prior coursework, or written review of relevant professional experience—that demonstrates the student's competency in concentration I

The assistance of an academic adviser should be sought for advice in the preparation of these documents.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition for the two-term Preparatory Optometry Program for the entering class of 2014 will be \$19,000 per year for all students. A Health Professions Division general access fee of \$145 is required each year. An NSU student services fee of \$900 is also required annually. POP students will be personally responsible for any additional tuition costs from any undergraduate courses taken supplemental to the total of the three listed in the POP course schedule. All tuition and fees are subject to change by the board of trustees without notice.



FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT

The primary financial responsibility for a student's education rests with the student and his or her family, but economic circumstances for some families may make it necessary for the student to obtain assistance from other sources.

The purpose of the Student Financial Aid Program at Nova Southeastern University is to help as many qualified students as possible to complete their health professions education. Various loans, scholarships, and grants are available to qualified students to help ease the high cost of a health professions education. These financial assistance programs are described in a variety of separate university publications. For information on financial assistance, contact

Nova Southeastern University

Department of Student Financial Aid
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

Phone: (954) 262-3380 • 800-806-3680

ACCREDITATIONS

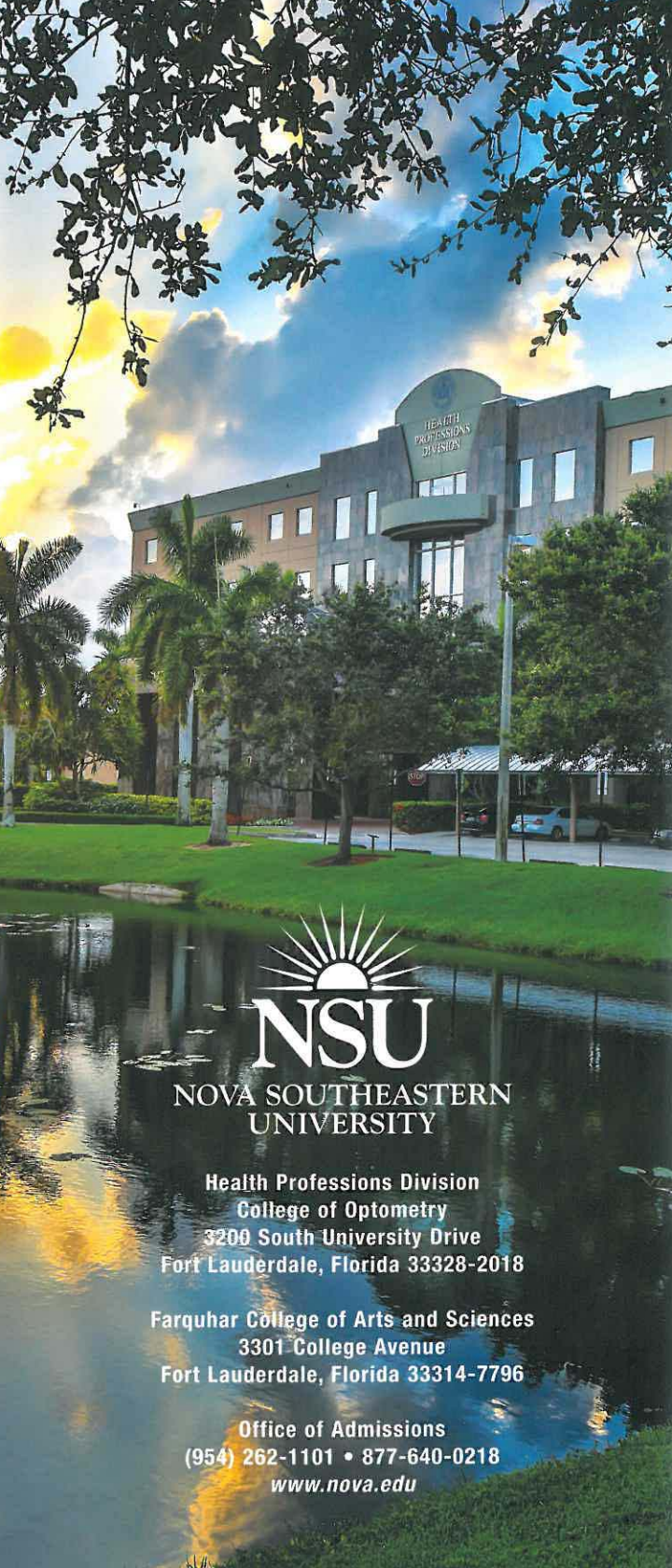
The College of Optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association (243 North Lindberg Blvd., St. Louis, MO; telephone number: 800-365-2219) and is a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

01-071-13MCP



**NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY**

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College of Optometry
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